

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
United Community Corporation
124 Branford Place
Newark, New Jersey
March 7, 1968

PRESENT:

Timothy Still, president, presiding; Edward A. Kirk, Charles W. Garrison, Rev. B. F. Johnson, Harold Hodes for Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, Richard Haley for Msgr. Joseph Dooling, Mrs. Estelle Pierce, Allan Trent, Mrs. Marie Gonzalez, Thomas Edwards, Mrs. Gloria Butler, Sidney Reitman, legal counsel

Staff: Dr. L. Sylvester Odom, Michael Duffy, Michael Gotthainer, Alvin Oliver, Thomas Purvis, Phillip Schrager, J. Wade, Duke Moore, Beatrice Easley, Mary Ann Henry

OEO Consultant: Robert Golter

QUEEN OF ANGELS MARCH

Mr. Still stated that Queen of Angels and people from Essex and other counties met with the people of the Central Ward where the disturbance took place last year, to get an idea of what the people felt and to see what they can do to better the relationship between the white and black community. The meeting was successful and they indicated they would like to come back and have a walk through the area. Mr. Still went over the route of the proposed march. In view of the fact we have a committee to ease racial tensions, he would like a motion that UCC go on record supporting the march and help them where we can. It was so moved, seconded and passed.

TENSIONS IN NEWARK

The Committee on Tension met Wednesday night and discussed certain things which ought to be done. The committee will meet with the Mayor on next Thursday at 1:00 p.m. to talk with him about the problems. They will meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday morning at UCC to get together on what their purpose will be before going to City Hall.

OMBUDSMAN PLAN

Mr. Golter stated that he has secured a book on the Ombudsman Plan and is studying it. He went over the background, origination of the plan and where it is presently being used. The Ombudsman is answerable to the legislative arm of government. There have been modifications of it in other places, subject to the executive arm of government. The Ombudsman is supposed to be an impartial investigator, to hear complaints and do something about them. He hears complaints from the average person not having access to the regular avenues of complaint. It provides an impartial person that every citizen can have access to and in order to be successful, he has to have prestige and not subject to political

maneuvering. They can initiate their own investigations without charges being brought and they may make various reports. Their powers are limited. Being an impartial investigator, sometimes only has power of publicity and persuasion, letting the facts be known about certain situations. It is felt that this is not sufficient. There has to be a power of subpoena and in order for this kind of power to be given, some change by state legislation is necessary.

OEO is already funding a project in Pennsylvania through the governor's office which would consist of ten Ombudsman complaint bureaus. OEO is also funding one in Buffalo in four neighborhood centers. There is a lot involved in this and seems to be a very good idea. Sometimes the idea has failed because the same forces that opposed the police review board opposed it. It is a tested system and has many possible variations and modifications and has a lot to recommend.

MOTION

Mr. Golter recommended that the committee appoint a sub-committee to study the Ombudsman Plan and report back to the Executive Committee. Mr. Still stated that we have gone on record for a police review board but this is up to the City Council. He agrees on setting up a committee to study the plan and report back to the Executive Committee. It was so moved and seconded.

AMENDMENT

A question was raised on a time limit for the report. The motion was amended that the committee report back to this committee no later than four weeks hence. The amendment was seconded and passed. The motion as amended was passed.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Odom stated that Area Board #7 has to relocate and Mr. Reitman has the lease for their new location. We need a motion to execute the lease. So moved, seconded and passed.

A question was raised on whether the agency would be liable to a law suit because of terminating the present lease early. Mr. Reitman stated that we will not be liable under the terms of the lease.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Dr. Odom stated that there has been a great deal of talk about summer programs and the necessity for a coordinated approach. The federal government has made, in about 50 cities, some federal funds available to finance a person to serve as youth coordinator. Half of these coordinators were named by the city and half by the CAP agency. Mr. Lou Perkins has been named the youth coordinator for this city and our program department has been working with him and other parties in an attempt to get some picture of what is going to happen this summer in terms of recreational opportunities and continuing programs beyond the summer. It is late in terms of doing some of the things that might have been done this summer. The Chamber of Commerce is willing to provide some moneys for summer programs, approximately equal to the amount that

UCC receives from the federal government. Unfortunately, the amount that we receive from the federal government may be reduced this summer. He has been advised that the 75 million dollars has been reduced to 30 million dollars with a corresponding reduction in what the city is to receive. The indication is that the Chamber of Commerce does want to participate in the summer programs and wants a proposal by tomorrow for consideration in terms of money. The program department has prepared a proposal and in essence it proposes a coordinated approach including UCC, the city and others that have to do with summer programming, coming together under an umbrella, out of which would come the master plan. It also envisions adding eight people to the staff here and the amount needed for this staff coming through this source. Last year we had a summer block board responsible for UCC's summer programs.

A question was raised on the eight people for staff. It was explained that they would be people that would work in the operation of the program. Instead of hiring the people in June, we hire them in April to start working on all of the details. This will be the administrative staff for the summer program. They would be answerable to this umbrella committee envisioned in this proposal. A question was raised on who would do the hiring. It was stated that the umbrella group would do the staffing. Mr. Still felt we may be losing something we had last year in that we did the hiring. Dr. Odom stated that this is not the city and UCC umbrella, it is a city-wide umbrella. We have stated that we would try to cooperate with all agencies in this town to make a viable relationship. Someone has to have a program for the benefit of the children and there ought to be coordination on youth programs and we ought to seek that coordination. Mr. Still stated that we should keep what we have if we can operate under the umbrella this way. We ran this program for three years and worked with the PAL. The point was made that we are not talking about doing away with the summer board but enlarging it.

Dr. Odom read the proposal to the Executive Committee covering the preface, rationale, planning committee, advance planning, philosophy, day camp, police partners, tutorial, etc. He stated that the proper stance for us to take is that we are concerned about the summer and willing to cooperate and coordinate our efforts with other groups to make this a meaningful summer.

Dr. Odom said we have been advised by OEO that the cut which they have been predicting would come, has been picked at 8.3 per cent of our versatile funds plus a cut of 14.1 per cent for headstart. We were asked originally to prepare a budget based on a nine month funding for a twelve month period. They have officially directed us to cut our budget further by 8.3 per cent which totals 33 per cent. He doesn't know whether we can avoid the cut but we should not just accept the cut and let the records show this. He has served notice on the New Jersey supervisor of OEO that he will be requesting this board to instruct him to seek a conference at the highest level at Regional OEO to discuss this, and, with national OEO if necessary. Dr. Odom said he doesn't see how everyone can agree that Newark is the hot spot and then cut the funds 33 per cent. As advocates of the poor, we have a

responsibility to point this out, that they should be adding money to Newark not taking it away and finding money somewhere to hold this town together.

Mr. Kirk spoke on an article in the Evening News by Doug Eldridge wherein an OEO official made statements about UCC and has written a letter to Mr. Lennen naming problems of this newspaper. This kind of article destroys everything that we are doing.

Mr. Still stated that we agreed with OEO not to release any public statements on UCC and they have violated this agreement again.

Dr. Odom stated that we need more staff, we need more people in the program department to carry out the mandates of OEO. He wants us to go to New York early next week, along with key members of this committee and sit down and tell them that Newark cannot take this any longer. Mr. Kirk felt that this needs another trip to Washington. Dr. Odom stated that we owe it to them to let the records show that we sent to Regional first.

MOTION ————— It was moved to empower Dr. Odom to go to New York, to get something done on this problem of the cut. Seconded and passed.

Dr. Odom stated that he is calling a meeting for 10:00 tomorrow morning with the presidents and directors of the delegate agencies to discuss with them the cut and its implications, to make them aware because we deserve their support.

Mr. Schrager stated that he has made an appointment with the managing editors of the two newspapers because of the stories which appeared. We should have been apprised that this story was breaking in the newspapers. We have got to lay it on the line with them that we are fighting this kind of battle in Newark. Dr. Odom suggested we get a letter out on this at once.

Mr. Still stated that we ought to see Ted Berry because this should not go unanswered and demand that Ted Berry retract this statement. He requested Dr. Odom to take care of this.

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE Mr. Schrager stated that we are moving toward March 30 for opening the community conference and it is to be held in Newark. The responsibility for development has been delegated to the senior staff and is in the process of being planned now. On Sunday, a mass rally is planned, at which time, we will reveal the findings of the conference. The theme of the conference is While There is Yet Time. Dr. Odom stated that we have been successful in getting the state to make funds available to underwrite the cost of the conference through the Department of Community Affairs.

It was announced that the Board of Trustees meeting for March 21 will be held at 7:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Henry